
HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



Public Affairs Office

Unit 29353, Box 200 APO AE 09014

Pressestelle: Postfach 10 30 27, 69020 Heidelberg

DSN 370-7235/8725 Tel.: 06221-57-7235/8725

<http://www.ima.army.mil/europe/index.asp>

PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2006

Shipping Alcohol to the U.S.

HEIDELBERG, GE – Many Americans start a wine collection while stationed in Europe and want to send it to the United States when their overseas tour ends. Connoisseurs returning to the States can continue to enjoy their favorite European vintages if they find a local commercial exporter to ship their collection and are willing to adhere to state and Internal Revenue Service rules.

Alcohol is considered household goods, but it's important to know that the U.S. Postal Service will not let you mail alcohol; neither will most local household goods courier companies. Although it is a household good, alcohol is a restricted item and cannot be sent in a service member or civilian employee's regular household goods shipment.

Follow these steps to ship your alcoholic beverages to the United States:

First, ask your local transportation officer for permission to personally procure an alcohol shipment. Written permission from the transportation officer is required when you file your voucher for reimbursement. You will be reimbursed for your alcohol shipment, but only as much as it would cost to ship an equivalent weight of household goods with the Government contractor. For example, if you ship 300 pounds of wine, you will only be reimbursed for what it would have cost to ship 300 pounds of regular household goods by a Government contracted carrier. Reimbursement will probably not cover the entire purchase price of the alcohol you ship.

-more-

Once you have written permission from the transportation officer, you must contact the alcohol control board for the state you intend to ship the collection to. Ask the state alcohol control board what conditions they impose on alcohol shipments; quoting the amount, type and cost of the alcohol. They will let you know the rules for importing alcohol and how to pay any tax that may apply. Then, if the state authorities allow alcohol shipments, find a local merchant who ships alcohol collections internationally. Most transportation officers maintain a list of local companies that can perform this service. Service members should remember that the airport they ship the collection to must have a U.S. Customs and Border Protection office.

When you arrive stateside, go to the airport's cargo section with the shipping documents where you will be given additional paperwork to take to the Customs Office. Customs will work out the duty and IRS tax and stamp the customs clearance form. Take your customs clearance form back to the cargo section where the collection is released to you.

Customs officials report that the duty on still wine is currently 8.4 cents per liter and goes up to 19.8 cents per liter for sparkling wine. The IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage concerned, which usually works out to around six cents per liter for wine.

Follow these rules and you can continue to enjoy the best products of Old World vineyards at your new stateside home for many years to come. Call a military customs office to find out more about shipping liquor products to the United States or consult the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms web site at www.atf.treas.gov/alcohol/info/persimp.htm. Links to state alcohol control boards can also be found at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers' licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.